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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Can any of our readers favor us with a copy of the "*Smoking Catch*, to be sung by four men smoking their pipes, which is not more difficult to sing than diverting to hear," as mentioned in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* to be composed by Dr. Aldrich?

Colored Envelopes have been sent to many of our subscribers, which, we beg to remind them, signified that their subscriptions are in arrear. An early remittance will much oblige.

Review of New Music.

Cantica Ecclesiastica: A complete volume of Congregational Music. By Thomas Ions, Mus. Bac., Oxon.

The intention of the author in the publication of his book is to show the great utility of bringing into use a Congregational Handbook, from which the Sunday service can be ascertained and prepared. We write from authority that the system which is here sought to be established, has been already found highly beneficial, and the services improved, in the churches in which Mr. Ions's book has been used. Two editions of the *Cantica Ecclesiastica* have been published, "The small Vocal Score," and the "Folio Score" with accompaniments for organ with pedals; also an easy pianoforte arrangement, to suit small hands. We shall proceed to a description of the first-named, as the price at which it is published will conduce to place it within the reach of every member of the community. And here we would particularly invite the attention of ministers and organists to the great advantages which these publications present, tending as they do to produce a uniformity in the musical services of our churches, alike convenient to minister, organist, and congregation. The smaller book commences with instructions in the rudiments of vocal music, and some directions to be observed in chanting. This department of the work is followed by a table of the Sunday services throughout the year: the chants, psalms and verses, tune, and kyrie eleison. The advantage of following such a practice need scarcely be pointed out to those who have the control, or any share in the direction, of the musical church-service. An examination of this table has given us a very high sense of the talent and judgment of Mr. Ions, in whose church (St. Nicholas, Newcastle-on-Tyne,) the *Cantica Ecclesiastica* has been for some time in use.

The folio size contains an accompaniment to the psalm and hymn tunes for the organ, with pedals, "wherein," says the author, "the parts have been freely doubled." This arrangement has been inserted for the use of young organists, who will be sure to profit by it in their study of the organ. In addition to this, an easy accompaniment has been arranged for the pianoforte, in which the harmony is given to the right-hand, so that the youngest pupils may accomplish it.

A kind of supplement contains the canticles divided for chanting. A well-written preface, in which the history of metrical Psalmody is traced, is prefixed to the work.

The book contains 96 Psalm and Hymn Tunes, 32 Single and Double Chants, Eight Sanctuses, and 27 Kyrie Eleisons. The following well-known names are selected from among the numerous composers

whose works adorn the volume:—Handel, Haydn, Purcell, Crotch, Tallis, Ravenscroft, Attwood, Blow, Adams, Greene, Dupuis, Jones, Lord Mornington, Turle, &c.

The compositions by the Editor are of the highest merit, and his arrangements generally prove, not only the possession of great musical ability and sound knowledge, but an intelligence rarely to be met with. Mr. Ions has done infinite service to the cause he intends to serve, by the publication of this work.

To this book by Mr. Ions is affixed "The Morning, Evening, and Midnight Hymn, written by Bishop Kenn, and exceedingly well set to music by Mr. Joseph Garnett.—*Abridged from the Dramatic and Musical Review.*"

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

JEDBURGH, ROXBURGHSHIRE.—A choral society has lately been established in this town, which is likely to prove eminently successful; it already numbers upwards of sixty members. The society's second concert took place on the 10th Dec. The choruses, which were chiefly selections from the *Messiah*, were executed with wonderful precision and accuracy. The success of the society is, in a great measure, to be attributed to the exertions of the conductor, Mr. E. Lockwood, organist of St. John's church. We believe this is the only society, in any of the small towns in Scotland, that has ventured to sing the *Messiah*. The wealthier portion of the community seems to take interest in the society's welfare.

DUNDEE CHORAL SOCIETY.—Romberg's *Lay of the Bell* was stated to be performed, for the first time in Scotland, at the public concert given by the Dundee choral society on the 20th November. It is strange to find that almost all the classical works performed in Scotland, are offered with a similar announcement. It speaks not much for the progress yet made; but Scotland is, at all events, now making a good beginning, and before many years are over, it is hoped the reproach will have ceased to apply to the larger towns at least. The *Northern Warder* speaks of this concert of the Dundee society with much praise.

UPTON, ST. LEONARD'S, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—A choral society has been recently established here, under high patronage, presided over by the Rev. J. Clements, and conducted by the organist, Mr. E. T. Evans, for the promotion of sacred and secular music, more particularly the former. The society has obtained many patrons and members; and it is, and is likely to continue, in a flourishing state. An elementary class has also been established, to enable all who join it to take a part in the society. The first choral meeting, aided by several instrumental and vocal performers from Gloucester, will take place on the 8th of January, 1851.

DERBY.—Mendelssohn's oratorio of *Elijah* was performed on the 3rd of December, at the Lecture Hall. Public performances of sacred music upon a large scale, are very rare in Derby, but we trust that a better time is at hand. The *Derby Mercury*, speaking of this occasion, says:—"The inhabitants of Derby and its vicinity are indebted to the energy and enterprise of Mr. W. E. Gover, who, in this praiseworthy effort, has shown what can be achieved by the musical talent of the town and district, when once it is brought into favorable combination. Mr. W. E. Gover, we